

# Visitor Guide: Early Summer 2015

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



## Loving a land of drought

This year brings both challenge and celebration to Sequoia and Kings Canyon, and we welcome you to embrace them both!

The challenge? Arid summers are a way of life here, but recent winters have brought little snow. Imagine an already dry landscape after four full years of drought. Fuel moisture (a measure of how much water remains in downed twigs, branches, and logs) has dropped to record lows. Dead tree-tops interrupt a usually evergreen forest canopy.

How does one embrace something like this? By accepting the challenge and taking care not to add to its difficulties:

- Be aware that a tossed match, campfire sparks, a hot muffler, or overheated brakes can easily start a fire. Take pride in your efforts to prevent that from happening. Understand that fire managers may

still need to use planned fire, sparingly, to reduce wildfire risk.

- Understand that campfire restrictions (see back page) serve to protect this forest. Explore other ways to break bread and linger with friends and family in the serenity of this place.

- Conserve water within the parks and beyond. The more we save, the more goes to the life around us, and the longer we can enjoy park facilities with limited water sources.

- Admire the ability of life to persist and, where it does not, the ability of other life to pick up where it left off. Enjoy the cackling, drilling woodpeckers that gain new feeding places when trees succumb. Celebrate that cavity nesters such as flying squirrels, the rare Pacific fisher, owls, and many other animals will make their nests in these trees.

So what's to celebrate? Three in-

spiring anniversaries add a shine to this dry year! Sequoia National Park marks 125 years of protecting this landscape and the people who love it. The small, exquisite General Grant Grove National Park became a park just two weeks later, encompassing more sequoia monarchs.

That was in 1890. Fifty years later, Congress designated Kings Canyon National Park. It swept Grant Grove into an expansive wilderness park of Sierran peaks and canyons. That was 75 years ago.

For all these years the parks have dazzled generations of us with beauty and awed us with challenge. They've taught us to look closer, think bigger, and celebrate even the toughest aspects of Nature's nature.

Embracing both the celebrations and the challenges lets us enjoy and respect the wildness protected in these national parks.

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## Telephone & Internet

### 911 EMERGENCY — DIAL 911

No coins needed in payphones.

### To Report a Wildfire — 559-565-3195

### Limited Cell Signals & Service

See pay-phone locations by area, pages 8-9.

### Sequoia & Kings Canyon (NPS)

1-559-565-3341 (24 hour): Press 1 for an information menu then: for roads/weather/fire, press 1; camping/lodging 2; wilderness 4; and more.

### GPS, Web & Social Media

GPS programs sometimes misdirect travellers here. Use maps and signs, or ask for directions.

The only official park information sources online:



Website:  
nps.gov/seki



Facebook:  
Sequoia and Kings  
Canyon National Parks



Twitter:  
SequoiaKingsNPS

### Sequoia National Forest/Monument (FS)

1-559-338-2251, fs.usda.gov/sequoia

### Yosemite National Park (NPS)

1-209-372-0200, nps.gov/yose

### California Road Conditions (CalTrans)

1-800-427-7623, dot.ca.gov

### Wi-Fi Locations

Wuksachi & John Muir lodge lobbies, Grant Grove Restaurant, and at Montecito Sequoia (see page 5).

## Translations

**Welcome** - You may borrow a Braille copy of the park map & guide at visitor centers.

**Bienvenidos** - Hay un folleto en Español disponible en los centros de visita.

**Bienvenue** - Une guide officielle est disponible dans les centres d'information.

**Willkommen** - Eine Landkarte ist auch in deutscher sprache im Besucher-zentrum erhältlich.

**Benvenuti** - La traduzione in lingua Italiana della mappa e' disponibile in tutti i centri di informazioni.

## Visitor Centers, Book Stores, & Information Desks

Each offers park and area information, varied exhibits and films, and many sales items such as books, maps, gifts, and postcards. All profits from park visitor centers support the parks!

### Foothills Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 8am-4:30pm. Exhibits on life in the low elevations. Book store. 1-559-565-4212. Muchas veces hay rangers aqui quien habla Español. Local wilderness permits: self-issue outside the visitor center daily through 5/21, then go to Wilderness Office on weekday and self-issue on weekends.

### Giant Forest Museum (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 9am-4:30pm. Starting 5/22, 9am-6pm. Exhibits on sequoias. Book store. 1-559-565-4480. No payphone; closest are outside at Lodgepole Market & Wolverton.

### Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

(NPS) In Grant Grove. Daily 8am-5pm. Exhibits & movie in English & Spanish. Book store. 1-559-565-4307. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside through 5/21, then inside 8am-4:30pm.

### Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) in the Forest Service office in Dunlap, 19 miles west of Kings Canyon park entrance at Big Stump. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251, www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia

### Lodgepole Visitor Center (in Sequoia)

(NPS) Daily 8am-5pm through 5/21, then 7am-7pm. Films, exhibits, bookstore: 559-565-3793. Self-issue local wilderness permits outside through 5/21, then indoors. Pay phone outside.

### Cedar Grove Visitor Center (in Kings Canyon)

(NPS) Starting 5/22, daily 9am-5pm. Bookstore, maps, park information. Wilderness permits at Road's End: self-issue through 5/21, then 7am-3:45pm: permits issued, bear canisters, maps.

### Mineral King Ranger Station (Sequoia)

(NPS) Opens 5/22, daily 8am-4pm. Until then, self-issue wilderness permits on station porch and roadside near Atwell Mill Campground.

.....  
*Trash in the parks?  
 Not if you can help it!  
 Please take all trash to bins.*  
 .....

## Partners in the Parks

The following work together to protect these lands, provide services, and publish this guide, which was first printed in 1974 as the *Sequoia Bark*.

- Editor: NPS - Malinee Crapsey.
- Publisher: SNHA (see below).
- Printer: Willems Commercial Printing, Inc.



**National Park Service (NPS)** - federal agency in Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3341, nps.gov/seki

**Forest Service (USFS)** - federal agency in Dept. of Agriculture: 1-559-784-1500, fs.usda.gov/sequoia

**Geological Survey (USGS)** - federal agency in Dept. of the Interior: 1-559-565-3171, werc.usgs.gov

**Sequoia Natural History Association (SNHA)** - non-profit park partner designated by Congress: 1-559-565-3759, sequoiahistory.org

**Sequoia Parks Foundation (SPF)** - non-profit park partner: 559-739-1668, sequoiaparksfoundation.org

**DNC Parks & Resorts at Sequoia & Kings Canyon (DNC)** - concessioner providing lodging & food services: 1-888-252-5757, visitsequoia.com

## Connect to your national park!



The Sequoia Natural History Association - or SNHA - is the park's partner in enriching visitor experience and promoting awareness of public lands. They offer educational programs, publications, and financial support for preserving the natural and cultural history at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devils Postpile National Monument, and Lake Kaweah.

### SNHA offers all this:

- EdVenture & Sequoia Field Institute (SFI) courses, tour-guide services — see page 5!
- Bear-resistant food-container rentals
- Park Partnership & in-park volunteer program
- Visitor-center stores & Pear Lake Ski Hut
- Free & low-cost school programs
- Ranger program supplies
- Funds exhibit, research, & black-bear protection
- Park books, maps, & this guide
- Visitor information



# Change: Natural & Unnatural

We often think of parks as outdoor museums. Caretaking a living ecosystem, however, is very different than protecting unchanging objects.

Both natural features and human facilities may be different each time you visit. Both are changing all the time. How we take care of those features and facilities may also affect your visit. You won't notice the ozone monitor that works 24 hours a day, but you will see other activities such as revegetation, road work, painting, or trail maintenance. Some activities may unavoidably affect you, such as smoke from a prescribed fire, campsite closures due to revegetation, or bear management.

The park staff uses such actions as tools to maintain the landscape and protect its inhabitants and visitors. Your visit gives you but a snapshot of this process; Nature decides the timing of many of these actions. They all share one goal: preservation of these parks for us all, now and in the future.



Prescribed fire in a sequoia grove

## Fire: A Natural Change

Years ago, we tried to banish fire from the landscape, believing it was destructive. In sequoia groves, that meant putting out lightning-caused fires that naturally start as often as every 5 to 15 years.

As time passed, we saw unanticipated consequences from this practice. Fire suppression blocked important natural processes, which led to big problems:

First, sequoias were not reproducing. We learned that fires create the conditions that sequoias need to regenerate: Fires leave behind a seedbed fertilized with ash, and they open the forest canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the seedlings.

Second, the amount of dead wood and dense growth of small white-fir trees increased tremendously. In the past, frequent natural fires burned these away. Now, after fire's long absence, these serve as fuels, feeding bigger, hotter blazes that are more dangerous for people, plants, and wildlife.

For over 40 years at these parks, we have studied fire and its effects on the land. To protect human safety and benefit giant sequoia trees, we now work with fire to restore the benefits it brings.

We still put out fires that threaten life and property but when and where it's appropriate, we ignite prescribed fires or allow lightning fires to spread naturally, reducing fuels and improving resource conditions. Strong evidence shows we are succeeding.

Why is this important? The national parks exist to conserve resources "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." We once thought that aggressive fire suppression met this goal. A more complete understanding of fire tells us that excluding this important natural agent of change only hurts what we are trying to protect.

*Note: The beneficial effects of fire are critical to these parks, but high fire danger this year will affect how the park manages each fire.*

## Unnatural Change: Alien Invaders

Plants and animals evolve together in communities over time. Often, they keep each other in check.

When species get brought in from other places, the newcomers may multiply wildly. This is because the competitors, predators, and diseases that keep them in check in their home communities are not here. This imbalance breaks links in the local web of life, badly disrupting native species that depend on each other. Sometimes the non-native aliens completely replace local plants and animals.

Practice alien hygiene! Look for seeds and tiny animals attached to shoes, clothes, waders, equipment, tires, and pet fur. Wash mud from under cars and on tires before coming into the parks.

The natives will thank you!

### Imminent Alien Threats!

**Star thistle** is one of the most damaging non-natives in the state. Dense, thorny growth completely excludes native plants and limits wildlife movements. It is not yet established in these parks, but it is close! If you recognize its yellow flower and thorny spines from your home or travels, make sure not to bring it in. If you see it here, tell a ranger.



**New Zealand mud snails** completely take over and change waterways that they invade. Due to their biology, just one snail can start a huge population! These tiny light-brown animals—less than 1/8-inch long—stick on your gear. Check boots, waders, and boats thoroughly for this little invader. Common just east of the parks, they could easily be carried into the High Sierra.



For more information on fire management, visit <http://go.nps.gov/sekifire>. To report a wildfire: 559-565-3195.



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## Camping

Check regulations at each campground; fire restrictions are in place. Rules vary between the Park and National Forest (see page 9). Each standard campsite has a table and fire ring with grill. No hook-ups.

**You must store food correctly all year due to black bears.** The park supplies bear boxes; most are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. See page 11.

**Summer reservations:** See \* on chart and below for reservable campsites in these parks (NPS) and in National Forest (FS). Reservations available up to 6 months in advance: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov); 1-877-444-6777 (7am -9pm PST, 3/1-10/31). Customer service: 1-888-448-1474.

### Group Sites & Maximum Group Sizes

- **Up to 6 people:** Many campgrounds limit a site to 1 vehicle & 6 people. Check locally for variations in these limits & parking locations for extra vehicles.
- **7 to 19 people (mid-size):** Summer only, first-come/first-served sites: groups of 7-15 at \*Crystal Springs; groups 7-19 at \*Canyon View, \$35/site.
- **Large groups:** Reservations for large-group sites in \*Dorst Creek Campground and in \*Grant Grove and \*Cedar Grove in the national park, or in the national forest: 1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

### Fire Restrictions, Campfires, & Firewood

- Fire restrictions are in effect; check locally for details. Fire danger is very high.
- Gather only dead & down wood; do not cut limbs off trees. Please don't transport firewood. It can carry insects/diseases that threaten living trees. Find/buy wood close to where you will use it. Please burn any wood you brought in.
- Fires must be out cold before you leave.
- The national forest (FS) requires free campfire permits from Hume Lake Office, Kings Canyon Visitor Center (Grant Grove), a FS ranger, or download from [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia).

### Propane Canisters

Do not put propane or fuel canisters in park trash-cans or leave them here. Recycle them at home.

### Roadside Camping?

Not permitted in the park. Camp only in designated sites in campgrounds. In National Forest & Monument: Permitted unless posted otherwise.

### Quiet & Generator Hours

Music should be audible in your site only. Quiet hours 6am-10pm. Generator use 9am-9pm only; at Lodgepole & Dorst 8-11am & 5-8pm only.

### RV & Trailer Length Limits

Check limits & advisories on back page.

## Campgrounds: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS)

Footfalls Area	Elevation 2100' - 3600'	Low elevation oaks and chaparral.
* Potwisha - 40 sites Open all year.	\$22. Some sites reservable all year.	River nearby. Pay phone, flush toilets, dump station. Fire restrictions: No wood, charcoal fires, or smoking.
* Buckeye Flat - 28 sites Open. Last night 9/27.	\$22. Sites reservable 5/20 through 9/27/15.	No RVs or trailers. River nearby. Flush toilets. Other facilities nearby at Potwisha. Fire restrictions: No wood, charcoal fires, or smoking.
South Fork - 10 sites All year.	\$12. No drinking water.	Vault toilets. River nearby. Bear boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high. Non-potable water turned on 5/20-10/14, conditions permitting. Fire restrictions: No wood, charcoal fires, or smoking.
<b>Mineral King Area closed</b>	<b>Elevation 6650' - 7500'</b>	<b>No RVs or trailers. No electricity/gasoline. Road opens May 20.</b>
Atwell Mill - 21 sites Open 5/20. Last night 10/25.	\$12.	No RVs or trailers. River, sequoias. Vault toilets. Bear boxes. Food, showers nearby at Silver City (summer only).
Cold Springs - 40 sites Open 5/20. Last night 10/25.	\$12. Water system may be off until 5/22 at the latest.	No RVs or trailers. Pay phone. River. Vault toilets. Food & showers at Silver City (summer only). Bear boxes in varied sizes.
<b>Lodgepole Area closed</b>	<b>Elevation 6700'</b>	<b>*Reservations available in summer.</b>
* Lodgepole - 205 sites Open.	\$22. Sites reservable 5/20 through 9/29/15.	Pay phone, flush toilets, RV dump station. River. Food, showers, laundry nearby in summer. Generator use from 8-11am & 5-8pm only.
Dorst Creek - 210 sites Closed. Open 6/17.	\$22. Existing reservations honored; none being taken.	Availability depends on water supply. Flush toilets, dump station, pay phone. Generator use 8-11am & 5-8pm only. Shuttle stop starting 6/17.
<b>Grant Grove Area</b>	<b>Elevation 6500'</b>	<b>A forested area near sequoias.</b>
Azalea - 110 sites Open all year.	\$18. Limited sites available in winter.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, seasonal showers.
Crystal Springs - 36 sites Open 5/20.	Tent/RV standard sites \$18. * Mid-size group sites \$35.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby: food, showers in summer. * 14 group sites for group sizes of 7 to 15 reservable for 5/20 through 9/29/15.
Sunset - 157 sites Open 5/20.	\$18. *Large-group site reservable 5/20 through 9/8/15.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Village nearby with food, showers in summer.
<b>Cedar Grove Area closed.</b>	<b>Elevation 4600'</b>	<b>On the floor of the Kings Canyon.</b>
Sentinel - 83 sites Open.	\$18	Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Opens late April.
Sheep Creek - 111 sites Open 5/20.	\$18	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby.
* Canyon View 12 group sites Open 5/20. No RVs or trailers.	\$35 Mid-size groups (7-19); \$50 Large groups (20-40).	No RVs or trailers. Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. *Reservable 5/20 through 9/8 (mid-size groups) & 9/29 (large groups).
Moraine - 120 sites Open as needed.	\$18 First opening 5/20.	Nature programs (summer). Flush toilets. Food, showers & laundry nearby. Opens for Memorial Day weekend, then for July 4th week.

**Fire restrictions in effect. Water shortages may affect facilities. Thank you for conserving water!**

## Campgrounds in Sequoia National Forest (USFS)

Hume Lake Area	Elevation 4000' - 5900'	Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. *Reservable in summer.
* Princess - 88 sites Open.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	River, sequoias. Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. RV dump station \$10. Extra car \$7.
* Hume Lake - 74 sites Open.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Lake, food, pay phone, laundry & gas nearby. Extra car \$7.
* Tenmile - 13 sites Open.	\$20 single, \$40 double Reservable in summer.	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7.
Landslide - 9 sites Open.	\$20 single, \$40 double	River & sequoias nearby. Vault toilets. Extra car \$7.
Convict Flat - 5 sites Open.	Free. No water.	Vault toilets. River nearby.
<b>Big Meadows &amp; Stony Creek</b>	<b>Elevation 6400 - 7500'</b>	
* Stony Creek - 49 sites Open May 22.	\$24 single, \$48 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs. Flush toilets. Pay phone, food, laundry, showers nearby at lodge. Extra car \$7. Bear boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high.
* Upper Stony - 18 sites Open May 22.	\$20 single, \$40 double Reservable in summer.	Nature programs (summer). Vault toilets. Food, laundry, showers nearby. Extra car \$7. Bear boxes ~47" long, 17" deep, 16" high.
Horse Camp - 5, Buck Rock - 11, Big Meadow - 45 sites	Open May 15. Free. No water.	Vault toilets. Big Meadow has bear boxes ~47" long, 33" deep, 28" high.
<b>Fire restrictions in place; check for details. Camping in wilderness? See page 11.</b>		

## Lodging

For facility hours, see pages 8-9.

Three park areas have lodging, as do several locations in the nearby national forest:

### In these National Parks (NPS)

#### IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

##### • Wuksachi Lodge

All year. Reservations 1-888-252-5757; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). North of Lodgepole two miles at 7200'. Lodge, restaurant, lounge, gifts.

#### IN KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Reservations 1-877-436-9617; [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com). Lodging in two areas:

##### • Grant Grove Cabins & John Muir Lodge

All year. Hotel, cabins, restaurant, market, gifts at 6500' elevation. 1-559-335-5500

##### • Cedar Grove Lodge in the Kings Canyon

Motel, restaurant, market at 4600' elevation.

### Sequoia National Forest (USFS)

#### Montecito Sequoia Lodge (FS permittee)

All year. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; desk 1-559-565-3388; [www.mslodge.com](http://www.mslodge.com). On Generals Hwy 9 miles (14.5 km) south of Grant Grove. Cabins, restaurant, hotel, seasonal & children's activities.

#### Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

(KCPS) Mid-May to early October. Reservations 1-800-227-9900; [www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com](http://www.sequoia-kingscanyon.com). On Generals Highway south of Grant Grove. Hotel, gasoline, pizza, market, showers, laundry.

#### Big Meadows Cabin (USFS)

July to mid-October. 1-877-444-6777; [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Historic station south of Grant Grove.

### On Private Land in Park/Forest

**\* Note:** These two lodges on private land surrounded by national park or forest cannot be evaluated, regulated, or endorsed by these agencies.

#### \* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Opens May 22. [www.silvercityresort.com](http://www.silvercityresort.com); 1-559-561-3223. Cabins, supplies, showers. No gas. Store, restaurant/bakery.

#### \* Kings Canyon Lodge (private)

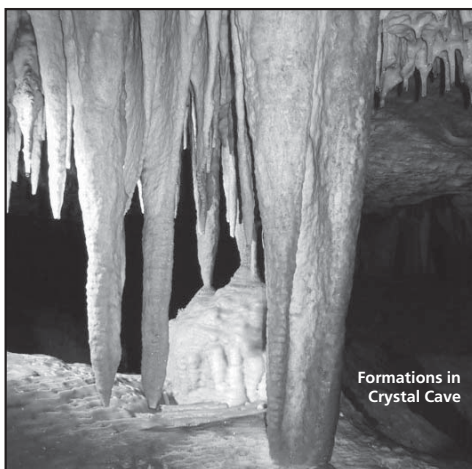
Open May 8 to mid-October. Reservations: 1-559-335-2405. On Hwy 180, 13 miles (21 km) east of Grant Grove. Lodge, food, gasoline.

### Neighboring Towns

Three Rivers, Lemon Cove, Squaw Valley & others offer year-round lodging & camping. Ask at visitor centers or see [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit).

## Programs & Tours - Early Summer 2015

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### Crystal Cave Tours

NOTE: Tickets sold *only* at Lodgepole & Foothills visitor centers, *not* at the cave. Buy tickets at least 1½ hours in advance.

Crystal Cave Road is 15 miles from the Sequoia Park entrance at Hwy 198; 3 miles south of Sherman Tree (map, page 8). It is narrow and winding; maximum vehicle length on the road is 22'. Use parking-lot restrooms; the cave has none. Wear sturdy shoes; the 1/2-mile trail (0.8 km) to the cave is steep. Wear a jacket; it's 50°F (10°C) inside. No bags/packs of any kind, strollers, or tripods; no flash/lighted photography/video. Not wheelchair accessible. Ask about group, wild-cave, & school tours: 1-559-565-3759. Tours are weather-dependent and subject to change.

#### Family Cave Tour Daily - 45 minutes

May 9 - June 5:

- Saturday/Sunday: 11am, noon, 1, 2, 3, & 4pm
- Weekdays: 11am, noon, 2, & 3pm.

June 6 - September 9:

- Saturday: Every 1/2 hour 10am-6pm
- Sunday: Every 1/2 hour 10am-5:30pm
- Weekdays: Every 1/2 hour 10am-4:30pm

Extra tours holiday weekends (Friday-Monday).

Fees: Age 5-12 \$8; 13-61 \$16; 62 & up \$15. Ask about veteran, military & SNHA member discounts! National Park & Interagency passes do not apply.

#### Special tours for special interests:

• **Junior Caver Tour** 6/24-8/20,

Tuesday-Wednesday 1-3:30pm. Ages 8 to 12. \$30.

• **Discovery Tour** 6/25-8/14. Thursday-Friday at 4:45pm, Sundays 5:45pm (except holiday weekends). \$18.

• **Adult Tour** Age 13 & up only. Daily 10am starting 6/6 (except holiday weekends).

### Free Ranger Walks & Talks

Join us in the Foothills, Giant Forest, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, Cedar Grove, Mineral King, and other locations! Most programs run late May through August. See bulletin boards for schedules of ranger-led activities.

### Junior Ranger Program - free

For ages 5 to 105! Pick up a free booklet at any visitor center, finish the activities for your age group, & earn your badge. See Junior Caver tours, left.

### Sequoia Field Institute (SFI)

Over 50,000 visitors yearly explore the parks and Lake Kaweah with SFI guides. These experts help you see, paint, photograph, or write as you walk, ski, snowshoe, boat, and enjoy! SNHA members may get a discount on SFI activities: 1-559-565-4251; [sfi@sequoiahistory.org](mailto:sfi@sequoiahistory.org)

### Touring on Horseback

Hourly rides, spot trips, guided trips. Opening & closing dates depend on weather conditions.

**Cedar Grove** May 22 to October 12, 9am-4pm  
1-559-565-3464 summer, 1-559-337-2413 off season

**Grant Grove** June 12 to September 7, 9am-4pm:  
1-559-335-9292 summer

**Horse Corral** Late May through September:  
At Big Meadows in Sequoia National Forest (USFS)  
1-559-565-3404 summer, 1-559-679-3573 cell

### Interested in volunteering?

Log in to [volunteer.gov](http://volunteer.gov) and enter keywords "Sequoia and Kings Canyon" to see available opportunities. Or call the volunteer office: 1-559-565-4232. Volunteers are needed for invasive plant control, special events, and routine clerical and maintenance tasks. Individuals and groups welcome!

### Teachers & Parents, Take Note!

Expand your classroom: Invite a ranger to your class, visit the parks with your school group, download lesson plans, and participate in distance learning. All education programs are standards-based and free! Visit [nps.gov/seki/learn/education](http://nps.gov/seki/learn/education).



## 6 Exploring Sequoia National Park - Early Summer 2015

Review all safety advice on page 10. Be extra careful near rivers. Carry a map or guide (sold at visitor centers). Orient yourself before going and tell someone your plans. Always store food properly before leaving your car or campsite.

### The Foothills

The low elevations host more different plants and animals than the rest of these parks combined!

#### Foothills Visitor Center

Exhibits on the diverse foothills. Hours on page 2.

#### Hospital Rock Picnic Area

Exhibits about the Western Mono people who once lived here. A short trail built by the Civilian Conservation Corps leads to a cascade. Careful; drownings often occur here! Always store food in the metal boxes provided to keep it from bears.

**Marble Falls Trail** climbs 3.7 miles (6 km) through chaparral to a waterfall. Park across the highway from Potwisha (no non-camper parking in campground). Near site #14, follow the dirt road across the concrete ditch; the trail starts along the steep bank to the right.

#### Paradise Creek

Park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area (not in campground). Walk 0.8 miles to Buckeye Flat Campground. Take the path across from site #28 to cross a footbridge over the Middle Fork. Follow Paradise Creek (not the Middle Fork) for 1 mile (1.6 km) until the trail grows faint.

### Mineral King

Open May 20 to late October, weather permitting. The steep, winding road ends at 7800'; be sure to keep to the right as you drive. There is no gasoline or electricity in the area or en route; be prepared. Use the automated fee machine to pay your entrance fee at Lookout Point. Free ranger-led programs start 5/22; please join us!

### Giant Forest

#### Giant Forest Museum

See page 2 for details. Shuttle stop starting 5/21.

#### Big Trees Trail

A level, 2/3-mile (1km) paved loop with trailside exhibits about sequoias. Start your walk at Giant Forest Museum (parking at the trail is only for cars with disability placards). 1 hour round trip.

#### Congress Trail

A fairly level 2-mile loop (3.2 km) through the heart of the grove. Begins at the Sherman Tree.

#### General Sherman Tree

Two trails lead to the world's largest tree:

- **Main Trail** - This 1/2-mile trail down to the tree has some stairs; the walk back is uphill. Beware of slippery or wet spots. Drive 2 miles north of Giant Forest Museum (past the small Sherman Tree parking lot on the Generals Hwy only for those with disability placards). Turn right on Wolverton Road; follow signs. Shuttle stop starting 5/21.

• **Wheelchair-accessible trail** from the Generals Hwy to the Sherman Tree. Parking here is only for those with disability placards. If you have no placard but can't walk the hill on the main trail, ask at a visitor center for a temporary permit. Shuttle stop starting 5/21.

#### Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road

Open. No drinking water is available along this 3-mile dead-end road, which begins at Giant Forest Museum. Road is closed weekends/holidays starting 5/21, 9am to late afternoon, when shuttle runs:

- **Moro Rock** - A granite dome with a steep 1/4-mile staircase to the top (300-foot elevation gain). Spectacular mountain views. Two miles from Generals Highway. Shuttle stop.
- **Tunnel Log** - A fallen sequoia that was tunneled through, and the only "tree you can drive through" in these parks. Bypass for larger vehicles. 2.7 miles from the Museum.
- **Crescent Meadow** - Sequoias surround this fragile wetland. Stay on designated trails; use fallen logs to walk into meadows. Several trails start here, including the 1-mile (1.6 km) route to Tharp's Log, a cabin in a fallen sequoia; and the High Sierra Trail (60 miles/97 km to Mt. Whitney (14,500'/4419 m), highest in the lower 48 states. Shuttle stop starts 5/21.

## See Sequoia By Shuttle

See bulletin boards at shuttle stops for details. Buses are wheelchair-accessible; some can kneel. All can carry two bikes.

- Giant Forest: Green Route 1 - Free.

Giant Forest Museum to Lodgepole, stopping at Sherman Tree. Every 15 minutes, 9am - 6pm. 1/2-hour ride one way.

- Moro Rock / Crescent Meadow: Gray Route 2 - Free. Leaves Giant Forest Museum every 15 minutes 9am - 6pm. 15-minute round trip. Moro Rock stop only on outbound trip. Road closed to private vehicles weekends & holidays (page 12).

- Lodgepole /Wuksachi /Little Baldy /Dorst: Purple Route 3 - Free. Leaves each stop every 20 minutes, 9am - 6pm. The Little Baldy / Dorst portion starts 6/17.

- Wolverton / Sherman Tree: Orange Route 4 - Free. Wolverton picnic area & trailhead to Sherman Tree every 30 minutes, 9am - 6pm.

- Potwisha /Giant Forest: Red Route 5 - Free. Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum every 2 hours, approximately: Uphill 8am - 4pm, downhill 9am - 4:40pm. 45-minute ride one way.

- Giant Forest /Foothills/ Visalia - \$15 round trip Highway 198 to Giant Forest (no additional park entrance fee). Reservations required; 1-877-BUS-HIKE (287-4453) or sequoiashuttle.com. Leaves Visalia Transit Center every hour 6am-10am; 2-hour ride each way. Leaves Giant Forest for Visalia every hour 2:30-6:30pm.





# Exploring Kings Canyon National Park & nearby forest lands

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**Review safety advice (page 10). Be careful near rivers. Always store food properly before leaving your car or campsite. Carry a map. Be careful with fire!**

## Grant Grove

**Kings Canyon Visitor Center** - See page 2.

### Grant Tree Trail

General Grant, one of the world's largest trees, grows along this 1/3-mile (.5 km) paved trail. The tree is also a living national shrine. Trail guides are sold at visitor centers & the trailhead. One mile from the visitor center; go north on Hwy 180 then follow signs (1.6 miles).

### North Grove Loop

This 1½-mile (2.4 km) trail offers a close look at Big Trees and a quiet forest walk. Start at Grant Tree overflow-parking area.

### Panoramic Point Road

A narrow road to a trail to a Sierran vista. Trailers/RVs prohibited. Go east through visitor-center parking; follow signs to the paved, accessible trail to an overlook. Park Ridge Trail (4 miles/6.4 km round-trip) begins here.

### Redwood Mountain Sequoia Grove

Rutted dirt road to one of the world's largest Big Tree groves. Research here revealed the positive link between sequoias and fire. Across Generals Highway from Quail Flat/Hume Lake junction; 7 miles south of Grant Grove. Turn right (west) at Redwood Saddle; go 2 miles to parking lot. Loop trails up to 10 miles long.

## Area Overlooks & Views

- **McGee Vista Point:** Westerly/sunset views; 3 miles north of Grant Grove Village on the Generals Highway.

- **Kings Canyon Overlook:** View NE across the Kings Canyon to the High Sierra. On Generals Highway, 7 miles south of Grant Grove.
- **Redwood Mountain Overlook:** Faces west over one of the world's largest sequoia groves. South of Grant Grove 6 miles, across Generals Highway from Quail Flat junction.

## Kings Canyon & Cedar Grove

**Many drought-weakened trees have succumbed to insects in this area. Please help conserve water and be careful with fire!**

Open mid-April through October, the road to this gorgeous canyon stops at Road's End. Visitor center, trails, campgrounds, horse-back riding. Get trail maps at visitor centers. Two highlights are:

### Roaring River Falls (USFS)

A very short, shady walk to a powerful waterfall rushing through a granite chute. East of the Village 3 miles. Paved, accessible with assistance.

### Zumwalt Meadow

This 1.5-mile (2.4 km) loop passes high granite walls, lush meadows, and the Kings River. Parking is 4½ miles east of Cedar Grove Village road. Buy a trail guide at the visitor center. Allow 1 hour.

## National Forest around Grant Grove (USFS)

Explore Giant Sequoia National Monument, a part of Sequoia National Forest next door to these parks. Ask for a trail handout at the visitor center, and see page 12 for road information. Page 9 has details on how national parks and forests differ.

### Converse Basin

Almost every sequoia in this huge grove was felled early in the 1900s. Walk Boole Tree loop (2 miles / 3.2 km) to a monarch they spared (north of Grant Grove 6 miles); or walk ½-mile (0.8 km) loop to the Chicago Stump, cut to exhibit at the 1893 World's Fair (north of Grant Grove 2 miles).

### Hume Lake

Formed by a rare, historic dam, the lake supplied water to a flume that floated lumber 67 miles to Sanger. An easy 2½-mile trail circles it. Page 9 lists facilities. Eight miles north of Grant Grove on Highway 180; 3 miles south on Hume Lake Road.

### Buck Rock Lookout

A 1916 tower, still used for spotting fires, offers 360° views. Approximately 6 miles (9.6 km) off Big Meadows Road 14S11, then take Forest Road 13S04.

## See Grant Grove By Shuttle

See bulletin boards at shuttle stops for details. Each bus can carry two bicycles and is wheelchair-accessible; some can kneel.

- **Grant Grove Loop (green):** Free. Daily 9:45am - 4:57pm, these buses make 7 stops in the following order:

- just north of the market across from Kings Canyon Visitor Center;
- John Muir Lodge (closest stop to Panoramic Point);
- Crystal Springs Campground;
- Grant Tree parking area;
- Azalea Campground;
- Sunset Campground;
- Big Stump Picnic Area (on Hwy 180 near entrance);
- then back to the visitor center.

The loop takes 20-25 minutes. Buses come to each stop every 47 minutes or less, except from 11:15am - 12:47pm (see schedules posted at stops).

- **Big Trees Transit:**

Highway 180 to Grant Grove (orange) - \$15 round trip (no additional park entrance fee). Reservations required; [bigtreestransit.com](http://bigtreestransit.com). Questions: 1-800-325-RIDE (7433). Buses leave Fresno at 7am, 9am, 1pm, and 3pm, stopping at the Fresno



Greyhound and Amtrak stations and the airport, Sanger City Hall, and Squaw Valley/Clingan's Junction. The ride to Grant Grove's giant sequoias takes 2-1/2 hours. Buses leave Grant Grove for the valley at 9:30am, 11:30am, 3:30pm, and 5:30pm.

## Giant Forest Sequoia Grove

6400' elevation. Home of the world's biggest trees.

### Giant Forest Museum (NPS)

Hours on page 2. Shuttle stop starting 5/21.

### Crystal Cave (NPS)

A major park highlight! Tickets sold at Foothills & Lodgepole only; details on page 3.

**Giant Forest Shuttle (NPS):** Starts 5/21. See details & map on page 6.

## Lodgepole

6700' elevation. North of Giant Forest along the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River. Shuttle stop starting 5/21.

### Lodgepole Visitor Center (NPS)

Hours & details on page 2. Buy cave tickets here.

### Lodgepole Village Center Shops:

- Market & Gift Shop: Daily 8am-9pm. Supplies, clothing, food.
- Grill / Snack Bar: Daily 8-11am & 11:30am-8pm.
- Deli: Daily 11am-6pm.
- Showers & Laundry: 8am-1pm & 3-8pm. Last laundry in 1 hour before closing.

### U.S. Post Office

Mail drop only. Behind visitor center. Full postal services at Grant Grove.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside visitor center & market.

## Wuksachi Lodge & Dining

7200' elevation. Year-round service, 4 miles north of Sherman Tree. Shuttle stop starting 5/21.

**The Peaks Dining Room:** 7-10am, 11:30am-3pm, 5-9:30pm, & lounge 4-10pm. Reservations not required, but welcomed for groups of 8 or more. Box lunches available. 1-559-565-4070.

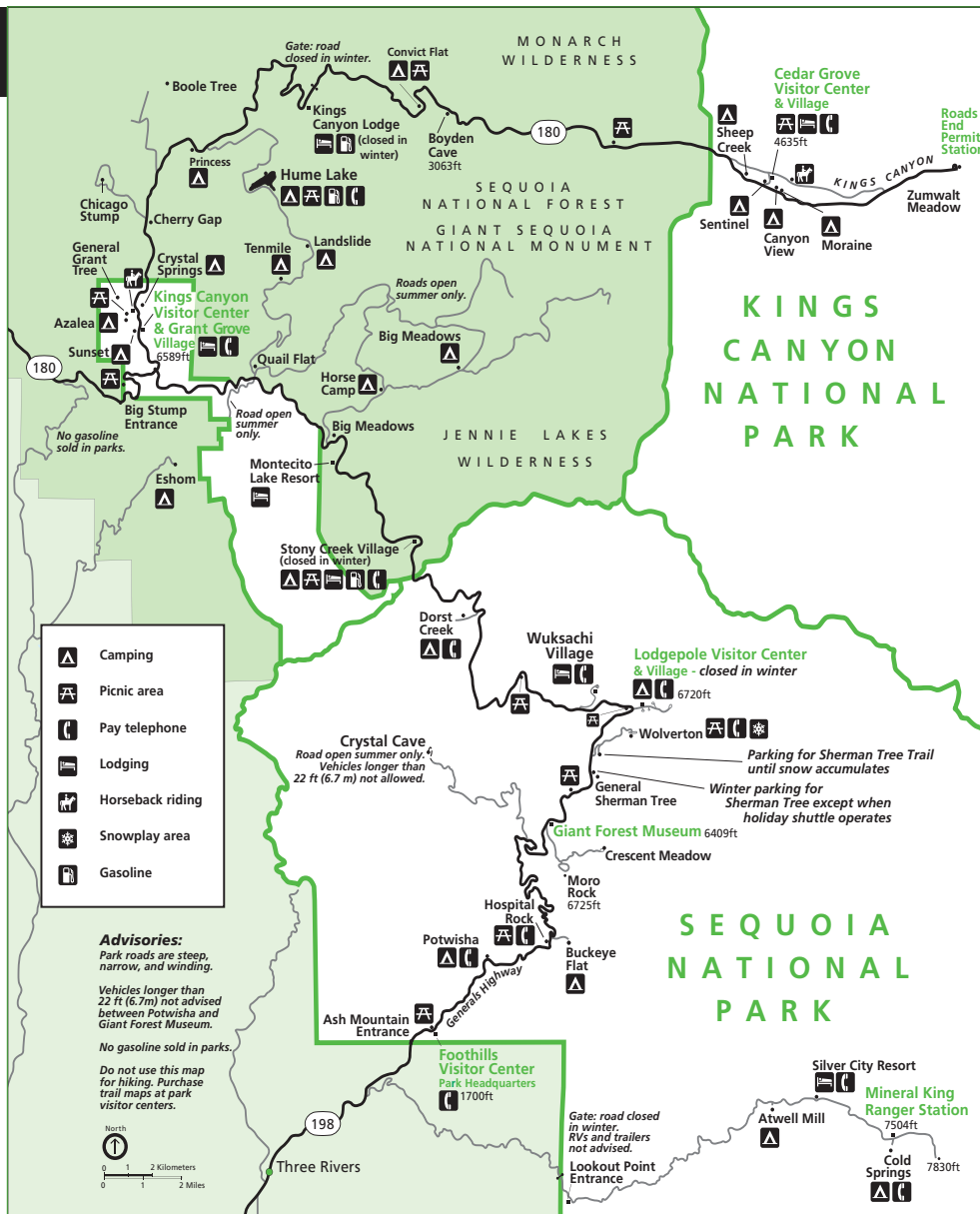
### Wuksachi Lodge & Gift Shop

Details on page 5. Gift Shop daily 8am-9m. Pay telephones at main lodge. Ask about naturalist programs held at the lodge.

## Wolverton

7200' elevation. North of Sherman Tree 2 miles. Summer picnic area. Shuttle stop starting 5/21.

**Wolverton BBQ & Dinner Theater:** Nightly starting 5/22 (weather permitting) at 5pm (time shifts with sunset). Watch *Voices of the Past*, family-friendly tales of park history (free). To enjoy the all-you-can-eat outdoor dinner during the program, buy tickets at Lodgepole Market /Wuksachi.



## Mineral King opens 5/20

7800' elevation. A steep, narrow, winding road to a subalpine valley. No electricity or gasoline. Pay your entrance fee at the automated fee machine at Lookout Point entrance. See page 2 for ranger station hours, and enjoy!

### Pay Telephones

Cold Springs Campground, Sawtooth parking area.

### \* Silver City Mountain Resort (private)

Cabins, supplies, showers. No gas. Store, restaurant/bakery: Thursday-Monday 8am-8pm; Tuesday-Wednesday 9am-8pm, pie only. 1-559-561-3223 (see page 5).

## Foothills Area

1300-3500' elevation. Fire restrictions are in place below 6000' elevation! Oaks, chaparral, & river canyons; hot summers & snow-free winters. Park headquarters is by the Foothills Visitor Center.

### Foothills Visitor Center (NPS)

8am-4:30pm. Details, page 2. Buy cave tickets here.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Foothills Visitor Center near front door; Potwisha Campground; Hospital Rock Picnic Area (on restroom wall).



# Facilities: Kings Canyon Area & USFS - Early Summer 2015

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## Grant Grove

6600' elevation. Experience a pristine sequoia grove and one that was logged in the 1800s.

### Kings Canyon Park Visitor Center

See page 2. Movie, exhibits in English & Spanish.

### Grant Grove Village Center

- Restaurant: Daily 7-10am, 11:30am-4pm, & 5-9pm.
- Market: Through 5/19, 9am-6pm on Friday-Sunday. Starting 5/20, 8am-9pm. Supplies, clothing, food, sandwiches.
- Gift Shop: Daily 8am-9pm.
- Lodging: 1-559-335-5500. Details on page 5.
- Showers: Open 5/20, daily 8am-1pm & 3-8pm.

### Grant Grove / Big Trees Transit Shuttle:

Starts 5/23. See details & map on page 7.

### U.S. Post Office

Hours may vary. Monday-Friday 9am-4pm; 24-hour lobby. Send visitor mail to: c/o General Delivery,

Kings Canyon NP, CA 93633. 1-559-335-2499.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Kings Canyon Visitor Center (booth by front door); outside gift shop & market.

## Cedar Grove

4600' elevation. Along the South Fork of the Kings River on the floor of the Kings Canyon.

### Cedar Grove Visitor Center

Daily. Near Sentinel Campground. See page 2.

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

Outside lodge & visitor center.

### Village Center & Lodging

- Snack bar: Counter-service meals & snack bar; not full service. Daily 7:30-10:30am, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-8pm. Starting 5/22, daily barbecue 11:30am-5pm.
- Gift Shop/Market: Daily 8am-9pm. Sandwiches, supplies, souvenirs.
- Showers: Daily 8am-1pm & 3-8pm.

## Wilderness Permits (NPS)

At Road's End, 6 miles east of the village. Self-issue until 5/22, then permits issued daily 7am-3:45pm.

**Horseback Riding:** Details on page 5.

## National Forest & Monument

Hume Lake & Big Meadows areas are in Giant Sequoia National Monument, part of Sequoia National Forest. You pass through the monument when you drive between Lodgepole and Grant Grove and between Grant Grove and Cedar Grove. *Fire restrictions are in effect;* check locally.

### USFS Hume Lake District Office (USFS)

35860 Kings Canyon Road (Hwy 180) 19 miles west of park entrance. Weekdays 8am-4:30pm. Maps, books. 1-559-338-2251; www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia

### Pay Telephones (cell phones rarely work)

- Between Wuksachi Village & Grant Grove: Summer near the Big Meadows trailhead.
- Between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove: Hume Lake (year round; see Hume Lake below); Kings Canyon Lodge (summer only).

**Lodging** - Details on page 5.

### Hume Lake (on private land)

All year. Open year-round to the public: 24-hour gas station (with credit card); market & snack shop. North of Grant Grove 8 miles on Hwy 180, then right on Hume Lake Road 3 miles. 1-559-305-7770.

### Boyden Cavern Tours (USFS permittee)

Daily 45-minute cave tours on the hour 11am-4pm until mid-June, then 10am-5pm. Gift shop. Ask about evening flashlight tours. On Hwy 180 between Grant Grove & Cedar Grove. Ages 13 & up \$14.50; 4-12 \$8.75; 3 and younger free. Ask about senior, military, AAA discounts (park entrance-fee passes do not apply). School/group reservations: 1-888-965-8243.

### Stony Creek Resort (USFS permittee)

On Generals Hwy south of Grant Grove. Gasoline 24 hours with credit card. Daily: Market 8am-8pm; pizza/salads 11am-7:30pm (both open 1 hour later on Friday-Saturday. Showers/laundry 9am-6pm. 1-800-227-9900; 559-565-3909.

### Montecito Lake Resort (USFS permittee)

All year. On public land. On Generals Highway 9 miles south of Grant Grove. Meals 8am-9am, 12-1pm, 6-7pm. Desk 7am-9pm. Cabins, hotel, children's activities. 1-800-227-9900; 1-559-565-3388.

**Gasoline Sales** See page 12.

## Basic Rules & Regulations:

National Parks (NPS) & National Forests (USFS) lie next to each other here. Some activities are illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest.

Can I...	In National Parks 	In National Forest 
<b>Walk my leashed pets?</b>	Not on any trails. OK 100 feet from roads in developed areas (picnic areas, campgrounds, roads). Certified service dogs only (not assistance or therapy animals); see <a href="http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010">www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010</a>	Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long.
<b>Collect things to take home?</b>	Leave things where you find them to play their natural role in the ecosystem. In both areas: Archeological sites and artifacts are protected by law.	Keeping a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted.
<b>Hunt?</b>	Not in the Parks. Visitors are responsible for understanding & complying with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this park.	Only during the season with a license: 1-559-243-4005.
<b>Drive off-road?</b>	Not in the parks. Stay on roads.	Get specific information on off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes at USFS Hume Lake office in Dunlap or Kings Canyon Visitor Center.
<b>Cut wood?</b>	Not in the Parks.	Call Hume Lake Ranger District for wood permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.
<b>Build fires?</b>	Restrictions are in effect in the park and forest; always check locally for up-to-date information. In park, only in fire grills in some campgrounds & some picnic areas.	Free fire permits are required, even for gas stoves & lanterns. Get permits at visitor center in Grant Grove or USFS in Dunlap.
<b>Go fishing?</b>	In both areas: Permitted during fishing season. California fishing licenses are required for ages 16 & up. Ask for copies of park regulations.	
<b>Ride a bicycle?</b>	Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail (other than the designated bike trail in Cedar Grove). In both areas: Under 18 years old must wear helmets.	Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles.
<b>Snowmobile?</b>	Not in the parks.	Only on designated snowmobile routes. Trailheads are at Cherry Gap, Big Meadows, & Quail Flat. Information: 1-559-338-2251.

## You are Responsible for Your Safety

Natural areas present hazards. Cold temperatures, icy or uneven ground, wild animals, and changing weather all pose dangers. Rocks roll, trees topple, and limbs drop without warning. People create other hazards via campfires, traffic, snowplay, and poor decisions.

Water is the main cause of death here. Many drowning victims just walking or climbing near rivers unexpectedly fell in.

The National Park Service works to reduce risks, but your safety is in your own hands. Keep alert. Read warnings and ask a ranger for advice.

### DROWNING

The #1 cause of death in national parks! Be careful around water; falling in is as dangerous as swimming. Once in a river, getting out can be nearly impossible: Rocks are smooth and slippery; swift, cold water rapidly saps your strength. Currents are always stronger than they appear, even during low water. Ask at visitor centers about river conditions.

### DISEASE PRECAUTIONS

Do not feed or touch ANY wild animals. Avoid areas of rodent activity, as fleas on rodents can carry *plague* and deer mice feces can carry *hantavirus*. *West Nile virus* is passed by bites from infected mosquitos. Human illness is not common, but take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

**TICKS** are common in foothill and Kings Canyon grasses; check yourself after a walk. Their bite is painless, but a small percentage carry *Lyme disease*. Remove them carefully with tweezers; seek a doctor's advice.



### GIARDIA

This protozoan in lakes and streams causes intestinal upset. Iodine and other chemicals may not be as reliable as heat in killing bacteria and Giardia, but can be effective if used properly. Boil drinking water from waterways for at least 3 minutes.

### POISON OAK

A common shrub up to 5000 feet elevation. Red leaves and whitish berries in fall; bare in winter; shiny green leaves in groups of three in spring. If you touch any part of it, wash skin and clothes right away.



### HYPOTHERMIA

This life-threatening condition can occur year-round. Stay dry; snack often. If others don't respond to the need for warmer clothes or are stumbling, forgetful, or extremely tired and drowsy, get warm sugary drinks into them immediately. Get them into dry clothing, sleeping bags, and shelter. Keep an eye on children who are wet or cold from snowplay.

### RATTLESNAKES

Found in much of these parks; especially common in the foothills and near water. Watch where you put your hands and feet! Do not harass or kill them; this is when most bites occur. Bites are rarely lethal, but tissue damage can be severe. If bitten, avoid panic; call a ranger or 911.



### LIGHTNING

See dark clouds or lightning? Hear thunder? Get inside a large building or a vehicle (not convertible), if possible. Do not stand under trees or in shallow caves. Avoid projecting above your surroundings, such as standing on a ridge, on Moro Rock, or in open meadows. Stay away from open water, wire fences, and metal railings, which can carry lightning from a distance.

### CARBON MONOXIDE

This odorless, colorless gas can be fatal. Never burn charcoal in closed spaces, e.g. a tent or RV.

### OZONE POLLUTION

See air-quality forecasts in visitor centers. Most ozone rises into the Sierra Nevada on warm winds. Levels of this colorless gas are highest from May to October, peaking in late afternoon. The peaks sometimes reach "unhealthy" state/federal standards, and can affect respiratory systems. Ozone forms from gases in car and factory exhaust.

### WEAK CELL SIGNALS

Cell phones rarely work here; don't rely on them. Note location of pay telephones (pages 8 & 9).

### MOUNTAIN LIONS

Cougars roam throughout the parks, but you are unlikely to see one. Attacks are rare, but be aware. Watch children closely; never let them run ahead. Cautiously move away if you find a partially buried animal carcass. If you see a cougar, convince it that you are not prey:

- Don't run; that may trigger pursuit.
- Pick up children.
- Try to appear as large as possible. Don't crouch or try to hide.
- Hold your ground or back away slowly while facing the cougar.
- If the cougar acts aggressively, wave your hands, shout, and throw stones or sticks at it.
- If attacked, fight back! Report any sightings.



### DRINKING WATER

We test the 13 park water systems to ensure that they meet federal and state standards. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are available.

### ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Keep parks safe, natural, and free from illegal activities! Prevent illegal marijuana growing. Report any suspicious activities: 1-888-NPS-CRIME.

### KEEP ANIMALS SAFE

Pets are vulnerable to wildlife, ticks, and overheating in vehicles. Keep wildlife safe from pets, too.

### TREE HAZARDS

Branches may fall, whether or not they appear dead. When under trees, stay aware. Run if you hear cracks or snapping overhead. Don't linger under dead, cracked, or broken branches. Report falling branches or trees to a ranger.

## Explore Safely

- Avoid going alone, and tell someone your plans and return time.
- Take a map, water, and layers of clothes.
- Watch and listen for potential hazards above, around, and on the ground.
- Fire danger is high. Obey fire restrictions.
- Slow down. Share the road with people and wildlife.

## Bear Habitat: Proper food storage is the law!

**Bears can grab unattended food or easily break into cars that have food in them. They become bold and sometimes aggressive in attempts to get more. Too often these bears must be killed.**

This is why you may be fined if you do not store food properly. Follow the rules below to reduce (but not eliminate) the risk of a bear break-in.

### Drivers

Never leave any food or scented item in cars where food-storage boxes are provided.

### Picnickers

Never move away from coolers and tables when food is out. Stay within arm's length of food.

### Lodge Guests

Remove food from your vehicles.



### Campers

Store food day and night in the metal boxes provided (avoid bringing coolers that won't fit; most boxes are 47" long x 33" deep x 28" high. Store ALL food, coolers, related items, and anything with an odor (even non-food) — including unopened cans and bottles. Latch the box completely. Food not stored properly will be impounded. Where boxes are not provided, seal food to reduce odors, cover it well, and close the windows. Keep a clean campsite. Deposit garbage immediately in bear-proof containers or store it like food. Take baby seats out of cars; the smells they absorb may attract bears.

### Backpackers

Hanging food often fails! Store all food in a portable container. Less than 3 pounds, it holds up to 5-day's food for one and fits in a pack. Metal boxes in a few wilderness locations offer backup storage. Rent/buy a container at visitor centers or markets.

### Everyone

Don't let bears approach you or your food, picnic area, or campsite. Wave your arms, make loud noises, and throw small rocks toward them (avoid hitting the face or head). Keep a safe distance but be persistent. Easily abandoning your food teaches bears that it is acceptable to approach humans; it may hurt someone in the future. If a bear does get food, however, *never* try to take it back.

## Wilderness

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Over 800,000 acres of designated wilderness in these parks provide outstanding opportunities for solitude as well as primitive and unconfined types of recreation.



Fire restrictions are in effect: <http://www.nps.gov/seki/learn/nature/fire-restrictions.htm>. Check these and any updates before leaving on your trip.

Following minimum-impact regulations helps to protect both the wilderness and your experience. Wild places include hazards, and help may not be available. Be prepared to be fully self-reliant.

Permits are required for all overnight trips. They are limited during the summer quota period (May 22, 2015 through late September) and cost \$15. Permits can be reserved by mail or fax beginning March 1. Outside of the quota period, permits are free and can be self-issued at the permit station or visitor center closest to your trailhead (see page 2).

**Jennie Lakes & Monarch wildernesses in the National Forest (USFS):** Permits are not required but please complete a registration card at Jennie Lakes trailheads. Information is used to manage the wilderness effectively. USFS requires a free fire permit for any open flame; download from [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia). Fire restrictions are in effect.

**Camping in the park's "frontcountry"** is permitted only in campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pullouts, picnic areas, or trailheads in the park.

See [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness) or contact:

Wilderness Permit Reservations  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks  
47050 Generals Highway Unit 60  
Three Rivers, CA 93271  
Telephone: 1-559-565-3766; Fax 565-4239

## Seasonal Wilderness Lodgings

• **Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp (DNC):** Open May 22 into late September, conditions permitting. A tent hotel and restaurant 11 miles out on the High Sierra Trail. Reservations (required) taken by phone starting 7am on the first business day in January: 866-807-3598. See [www.visitsequoia.com](http://www.visitsequoia.com).

• **Pear Lake Ski Hut (SNHA):** Winter only. The hut sits high above Lodgepole at 9,200' elevation. Six strenuous miles on skis or snowshoes get you to its ten bunkbeds and wood-pellet stove. Reservations required: 1-559-565-3759.

## Your fees help the Parks & the Forest!

Most fees get invested here to improve and protect these parks: They repair roads, campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, and restrooms. They update visitor centers, exhibits, and slide programs. For more on these and commercial fees, ask park staff or search [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) for "fees."

### Passes to Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (NPS) plus Hume Lake District of Sequoia National Forest (USFS):

• **7-day pass:** \$20 per vehicle (private, non-commercial) or \$10 per person on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or bus.

• **12-Month Pass:** \$30 admits all passengers in a private vehicle. Not valid at Crystal Cave.

### Passes to National Parks & Interagency Federal Recreational Lands Nationwide:

• **Annual:** \$80. Valid for entrance fees nationwide (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Annual Military:** Free to active-duty members and their dependents with a CAC or DD1173.

• **Seniors:** \$10 one-time fee buys lifetime entrance for U.S. citizens & permanent residents 62 or over (not valid at Crystal Cave).

• **Accessibility:** Free to blind or permanently disabled U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Take appropriate documents to entrance stations (not valid at Crystal Cave).





The Generals Highway in Giant Forest

## Gas Up Outside the Parks

No gas stations lie within the park boundaries. Fill up in Three Rivers (5 miles from Hwy 198 park entrance), Clingan's Junction (20 miles outside the Hwy 180 park entrance), or in USFS areas at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770. Year-round 24 hours with credit card. 11 miles (18 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village: 1-559-565-3909. 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: 1-559-335-2405. Gas pumped by owner, generally 8am-dark. 17 miles (27 km) from Grant Grove on Hwy 180. Consider calling to ensure availability.

## Rules & Recommendations

### Don't Lose Your Brakes

Keep a foot on the brake for too long, and brakes may fail. Instead, always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder.

### Prevent Car Fires

Hot brakes & mufflers easily start car and forest fires. Stop *only* on paved areas, not on grasses.

### Use Turnouts; Let Others Pass

### Emergency Car Repairs

For a tow: 559-565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 565-4070.

### Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Under age 18: helmet required.

### Go Slow for Wildlife!

Never feed animals by the road; cars may hit them.

## Winding Narrow Roads

Generals Highway between the parks:

- From Wuksachi Lodge (in Sequoia) north to Hwy 180 (in Grant Grove): Open for the season, conditions permitting.

In Kings Canyon (NPS) & National Forest (USFS):

- Hwy 180 to Cedar Grove in the Kings Canyon: Well paved. Does not cross the Sierra.
- Panoramic Point Road: Motorhomes/trailers not permitted.
- Redwood Mountain Road (NPS) & Converse Basin (USFS): Unpaved, rough, unplowed. Usually graded in May.
- Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile (USFS)

In Sequoia National Park:

- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow: Vehicle-length limit 22'; no trailers or towed units. *On weekends & holidays through 9/7, the road closes to private vehicles, 9am to late afternoon.* You can take the shuttle (page 6), walk, or bicycle during that time. Exception: those with valid disabled-parking placard or a current local wilderness permit.
- Crystal Cave Road: Maximum vehicle length 22' (6.7m).
- Mineral King Road: RVs/trailers not recommended (not allowed in those campgrounds).
- South Fork & Middle Fork roads: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.



## Driving Times

When roads are clear and open:

From Foothills to:

<b>Giant Forest</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Lodgepole</b>	<b>1 hour minimum</b>
<b>Visalia</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
<b>Mineral King (MK)</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>
closed until late May	

From Giant Forest to Grant Grove

via Generals Hwy **1 hour**

From Grant Grove to:

<b>Cedar Grove</b>	<b>1 hour</b>
closed until late April	
<b>Fresno</b>	<b>1½ hours</b>
<b>Yosemite south entry</b>	<b>3 hours</b>
(via Hwy 41)	

## Vehicle Length Limits

On Generals Highway in Sequoia National Park:

- Potwisha Campground to Giant Forest Museum: longer than 22 feet not recommended.
- Foothills Visitor Center to Potwisha Campground: longer than 24 feet not recommended.

**Alternatives:** Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car with an RV, camp in the foothills and use the car.

Several other park roads have length limits. See "Winding Narrow Roads" on this page.

## Fire Restrictions in Effect

The restrictions below start May 20 and are likely to increase as summer goes on. Always check locally for updates, or see [www.nps.gov/seki/naturescience/fire-restrictions](http://www.nps.gov/seki/naturescience/fire-restrictions). Thank you for your efforts to be safe!

- No wood or charcoal fires below 6,000 feet in elevation in all park areas except Cedar Grove. Prohibited areas include Buckeye Flat, Potwisha, and South Fork campgrounds as well as picnic areas in Ash Mountain and Hospital Rock.

- No smoking below 6000 feet, except in an enclosed vehicle or at campgrounds that still permit wood or charcoal fires (in Cedar Grove). Do not drop cigarette butts and matches outdoors.

- Gas, propane, alcohol, and tablet/cube stoves are still permitted in all areas, until restrictions increase.